Music students take the stage in ‘Wayward Sons’

By Sarah Hackett
Copy Editor

The Union Opera Workshop class filled the halls with singing last weekend as they performed three short one-act operas entitled “Wayward Sons”. The program consisted of three operas, “Saul and the Witch of Endor,” “The Prodigal Son” and “Felicity and Time,” an original opera written by Dr. Michael Penny, associate professor of music.

When asked why he chose these particular opera selections, Penny stated that he wanted three operatic scenes that were not just excerpts from a larger opera, but could be presented fully.

“I wanted to find scenes that were complete and totally self-contained,” said Penny.

Penny was inspired to write “Felicity and Time” by an old episode of “Alfred Hitchcock Presents.”

“I had this [the opera] cooking around in my head for years,” he said. “I started working on it at the beginning of last Christmas and finished completing it this September.”

The opera class has 13 members, 10 of which actually performed in the operas. According to freshman Jennifer Williams, a soloist in “Felicity and Time,” the production was a success.

“It was a success because we all did well. Everybody felt good about it,” she said.

Williams, who played Aunt Sam in “Felicity and Time,” felt that she benefitted from the experience.

“I’ve never done opera before, and it really was a great experience. For me - being a freshman - I got to meet everybody in the (music) department. I feel like part of the family now,” she said.

Penny estimated a total of 116 people who attended the two night performances on Nov. 14-15 and the matinee performance Nov. 16.

Inspirations ...

“Each time I pass a church, I stop to make a visit, so that when I’m carried in, our Lord won’t say, ‘Who is it?’” - Anonymous

‘Starship Troopers’ sends ‘Saved By the Bell’ cast into outer space

By Stephen Phillips
Film Reviewer

Remember that episode of "Saved by the Bell" when Zack fell asleep and dreamed that he and the rest of the Bayside High School gang were in a band? Well, pretend that instead of a band, they went far into a Utopian future. Everyone is attractive. Men and women are supremely equal, playing arena football and showering together afterward. The world is run by a "Federal Network." This fantasy wouldn't be that different from a new movie called "Starship Troopers."

Creators first marketed the film as a futuristic-science fiction-action flick. But after poor preview tests, they decided they ought to go with a more "go Earth!"-patriotic-World War II approach. It must have worked, because the flick ranked number one its first weekend in theaters. However, it would have made more sense if they had changed characters’ names and called it "Saved by the Bell: Zack and Kelly Go to the Future."

Characters in the movie include Rico (Zack), Carmen (Kelly), Ace (Slater), Carl (Screech), Dizzy (Jessie/Tori) and Zander (Jeff, the new college-aged manager of "The Max").

Now, if you’re not already confused, the story goes like a typical episode of the preteen Saturday morning staple. Rico is madly in love with Carmen; however, Zander, the new hotshot pilot, wants her, too. Rico wants to go to college, but Carmen is going into the military, so he follows. They get separated, and Carmen finally breaks up with Rico to pursue a relationship with Zander, who just happens to be her starship buddy. See the similarities?

Wait! It gets better. They have a third friend who just happens to be super-talented with computers.

Carl is played by the actor who starred in "Doogie Howser." Now, add a Mr. Belding, a Mr. Tuttle and a Miss Simpson, and you have "Starship Troopers."

Admit it. When you first thought of the movie, your first association wasn’t with poorly made Saturday morning television show. You were thinking more like "Star Wars" or "Alien." Actually, it isn’t like either one. There are relatively few outer space shots. Most of the action either takes place on Earth or on a distant planet.

There are, however, plenty of disgusting shots of bugs - giant 12-foot-tall arachnids that don’t care about anything but killing earwigs. Plus, there are plenty of shots of decapitated and disemboweled humans.

True, the characters are cliché, but there is a certain "Les Misérables" feel about the war for freedom. The action is unbearably intense, and the satire on today’s media is very humorous.

“Join the mobile infantry and see the world. Would you like to know more?”

RATING (on a 4.0 scale): "Starship Troopers" - 3.197
OTHER RATINGS: "I Know What You Did Last Summer" - 3.788
"Gattica" - 1.631
"Seven Years in Tibet" - 2.848

Above and Beyond

By Christa Henning
Staff Writer

Janna Morel, sophomore, directs Union’s Vision Clowns team and is involved in several other campus activities. According to those who know her, the reason she goes above and beyond is not only because of her dedication to her activities, but because she loves the Lord and is a wonderful friend.

Vision Clowns is one of Union’s creative arts ministry teams. According to Morel’s roommate, Andrea Aldridge, “(Being the director of the clown team) is (Morel’s) passion, and she loves it.”

Morel organizes the team to perform on Wednesday and Sunday nights, when the team is requested at area churches or other events.

Stephanie Lee, creative arts teams coordinator, said, “Janna is the team’s spiritual leader. She has such a servant’s heart, and she’s a true leader.”

“I Morel is also involved with the Cardinal & Cream and the Lest We Forget yearbook staff. She does photography for both and helps whenever she is needed.

Morel, like other students, enjoys watching movies and taking late-night trips to McDonald’s, but according to her friends, she is special.

“She’s always happy and smiling...she’s real honest and always listens,” said sophomore Andrew Lemons.

L e i g h Anne Dobbins, who works with Morel on Vision Clowns, said Morel was a wonderful director and a great friend.

“She’s just somebody who makes you happy,” Dobbins said with a smile.

Morel met her current boyfriend, John McGregor, at a Campus Ministries fall retreat last year.

When asked what he first liked about Morel, “She seemed like she had something to say,” said McGregor. “She really cares about people,” he continued.

Morel’s family is very important to her, according to friends. She is from Antioch, a suburb of Nashville, Tenn. She has one brother, Paul, who is 17. “They have the closest family I’ve ever seen in my life,” McGregor said.

At this time, Morel’s major is undecided, but Aldridge said Morel loves to help elderly people and is considering working in geriatrics.

Morel, like the average student, enjoys watching her favorite movie, “Forrest Gump,” but to those who know her, she is more than just average. She has gone above and beyond as a leader, Christian example and friend.

Union students hit West Coast

By Jennifer Kormann
Staff Writer

California will be welcoming Union student Jimmy Duke, senior theatre major. Duke has been accepted to the Los Angeles Film Studies Center.

The Los Angeles Film Studies Center serves as an extension campus for the Coalition for Christian Colleges and Universities.

The purpose of the program is to enable college students to serve in various aspects of the film industry with professional skill and Christian integrity. The program is open to upperclassmen and offers 16 hours of credit. Hopefuls must fill out an application for approval. The school then picks 30 students to attend. The center is located in Burbank, Calif., near major production studios.

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The study combines seminar courses with internships in various segments of the film industry, providing the opportunity to explore the industry within a Christian context and from a liberal arts perspective.

“A friend told me about this program because they knew I was interested in this line of work for my career. Once I decided to apply, I did not tell my parents, my roommates, friends or anyone about my decision. I just spent time praying and turned it all over to God,” Duke said.

“I think Jimmy will do well. We are all very excited for him.” Jimmy is extremely talented,” David Burke, communication arts/theatre professor, said.

Currently, Union student John Highsmith is attending the school. He returns to Union in December for graduation. Duke will move in Jan. 10, 1998, and his term will end May 1.
Sororities join for common goals

By Amy Balthrop
Staff Writer

Union’s three sororities joined forces for a common cause on Saturday, Nov. 1, for the Carl Perkins’ “Hay Day.” Chi Omega, Kappa Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha entertained 25-30 underprivileged children at their houses and at the McAfee Commons.

The children played golf and fishing games for part of the time. Students also conducted a cake walk and painted children’s faces. Each sorority hosted the children for an hour.

Amy Cooley of Chi Omega generated the idea and asked the other sororities to participate. She said that she remembered having fall festivals in elementary and junior high school, and that is where she got the idea.

“I do not know of any other community service event that the sororities have done together in the past,” Cooley said.

Cooley said she thought Hay Day would be a good opportunity to bring everyone together.

“I thought it was a good Panhellenic effort,” Erica Shankle, Cooley’s assistant, said.

The event cost very little for the sororities, because the only thing they had to spend money on was refreshments. Cooley created the design for a T-shirt for the event, and sales from the shirts raised $230 that was also donated to the Carl Perkins Center.

Heather Watkins led the KDs in Hay Day with most of the chapter participating and said she thinks it was a great success.

“You could tell that it just made (the children’s) day,” Watkins said.

Mandy Smith and Kathy Scarbrough serve as the community service chairpersons for Zeta. Smith said that seeing the children was a blessing to her.

“It was a joy for me to just sit back and watch the kids have a good time,” Smith said.

The sororities gave a lot of money, but the most important thing is the love and time they gave to the children.

Students Speak Out

Once again the holidays have arrived, and we here at the Cardinal & Cream dream of stuffing our faces around the “kiddie table” on Thanksgiving. (Take it from a college senior - just because you’re in college doesn’t mean you qualify to move to the “adult” table just yet.). Regardless of where they eat it, students told us what food item they most look forward to devouring this Thanksgiving.

Natalie Bennett, freshman, Communication Arts

“My favorite is cranberry sauce, because I can just open the can and eat it.”

Waverly Forpoulos, senior, Nursing

“Dressing, because my grandma makes the best dressing!”

Courtney Stafford, sophomore, Christian Studies

“Cranberry sauce completes the Thanksgiving meal. You can’t have Thanksgiving without cranberry sauce.”

Ellie Evans, freshman, Biology

“I love derby pie, but only after it’s been heated in the microwave for 15 seconds. Mmm ... good!”

Ashley Kemp, junior, Marketing

“Pumpkin pie with Cool Whip, because that’s the only time of the year that my mom bakes a pie.”

Lyle Larson, senior, Christian Studies

“My mom’s homemade rolls, because she only makes them for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and they are the tops! For me, they symbolize the family bond that we experience during the holidays.”

Ron Picard, junior, Art

“Green ... bean ... casserole. Enough said.”

Article and photographs by Sarah Hackett, Copy Editor